Coincidentally, STC's decision about blacklisting was communicated to M/s. Anika International and M/s. Finnpap on 30.9.92, on which date, STC had also floated a tender for import of Glazed Newsprint for the first time, after decanalisation of import of Newsprint through STC w.e.f. 1.4.92. When they did not get STC's tender, they filed a Civil Suit in Delhi High Court, requesting therein that they may be allowed to participate in the aforesaid tender and STC's letter dated 30.9.92 regarding blacklisting them, be quashed. As per the legal advice, STC withdrew its letter of 30.9.92 and allowed them to participate in STC's tender for import of Glazed Newsprint. They, in turn, withdrew their suit.

Again on the basis of legal advice and as per procedure, show cause notice dated 25.11.92 was sent to M/s. Finnpap and M/s. Anika International calling upon them to show cause within 15 days as to why STC should not discontinue further business dealings with them. The reply dated 10.12.92 given by M/s. Anika International was discussed in STC and STC noted that there was no need for any further correspondence in this regard. Subsquently, the closure report submitted by CBI vide its letter dated 11.10.94 in the matter was accepted by STC.

Dumping of PTA

2308. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been made and investigation has been initiated into alleged dumping of PTA (Purified Terephthalic Acid) originating from Thailand, Indonesia and Republic of Korea;

(b) whether domestic manufacturer of PTA used to get high profit and now as petrochem industry has gone through a global upswing their margins have come down;

(c) whether this lower cost of raw materials in textile industry will benefit the consumer in any way; and

(d) the results of the investigation initiated as well as other related steps taken by Government in the matter for the benefit of the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) On the basis of a petition received from the domestic industry, investigation has been initiated on 20.12.96 against alleged dumping of PTA (Purified Terephthalic Acid) originating from Thailand Indonesia & Republic of Korea. The Designated Authority appointed under the Customs Tarift Act considers all aspects of the case including the margins of dumping, injury to the domestic industry and the causal link between the two. The submissions made by the user industries as well as the importers are also considered by the Designated Authority before arriving at a decision. The quasi-judicial order of the Designated Authority is published in the Official Gazette which is appelable before the Customs Excise Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal.

Sugar Mills proposed to be set up during Ninth Plan

2309. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with Government for setting-up sugar mills in the country;

(b) the number of sugar mills proposed to be set up by Government during the Ninth Plan,

(c) the steps taken to clear the proposals pending with Government with regard to the establishment of sugar mills; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) As on 26.12.1996, 243 applications were pending for consideration for grant of Letters of Intent for setting up of new sugar mills in the Country. The details of these applications have been sent to Ministry of Industry for necessary scrutiny as per the revised guidelines issued vide Press Note No. 1(1997 series) dated 10.1.1997. Thereafter, 4 applications have been received through the Ministry of Industry.

(b) Central Government does not set up sugar mills in any part of the country. It, however, grants Letters of Intent/ Industrial Licences for setting up of new sugar mills.

(c) and (d) It is not possible at present to specify any time frame in this regard.

Allotment of Levy Sugar to States on the basis of population

2310. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government allots levy sugar to States on the basis of population figures of 1991 Census, while the population growth is a continuing factor;

(b) if so, the population of Gujarat as per 1991 Census and as per population projections computed on the basis of basic data by State Government at the end of 1996; and

(c) the quantity of levy sugar provided to Gujarat each month since July, 1996 the quantum requested for by Government of Gujarat on the basis of projected population updated as per basic contributing factors?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is allocating levy sugar to States/UTs on the basis of population figures of 1991 census because the availability of levy sugar has yet to attain stability to the extent needed for allocating it on the basis of the present projected population.

(b) The population of Gujarat as per 1991 census and the projected population of 1996 are 41.31 millions and 44.14 millions, respectively.

(c) The monthly levy sugar quota of Gujarat State since January, 1996 is 17,557 M.Ts. The Government of Gujarat have been requesting enhancement of levy sugar quota by 10% to meet the additional requirement of sugar on account of increase in population. The Government of India have already allotted 10% ad-hoc increase in the monthly levy quotas of all the States/UTs including the State of Gujarat for the months of December, 1996, January, 1997 and February, 1997.

Complaints about short supply of Wheat and Rice by Gujarat

2311. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has been persistently complaining about short supplies of wheat and rice and requesting for increase in the monthly allocation of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the requirement of wheat and rice allocations as presented by State Government each month and allocations made and quantities lifted since July 1996; and

(c) the steps taken to make good the short supplies?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC